



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Carrie M. Austin
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: Lance Gough
Board of Elections

CC: Deanne Millison
Mayor's Office of Legislative Counsel and Government Affairs

Date: November 2, 2017

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-01 and 39-03

This information is being provided in response to questions posed at our department's October 24, 2017 hearing on the proposed 2018 budget.

Ald. Reilly asked for the Board of Elections to identify line items in the 2018 budget recommendation containing savings/efficiencies, and what cost reductions in this budget are due to zero-based budgeting.

Compared to the expenditures from 2016, the most recent year with two citywide elections that included a primary and a general election, the following items in the 2018 budget represent savings and efficiencies:

- 0005 Salary and Wages (reduction of \$269,990)
- 0020 Overtime (reduction of \$49,651)
- 0055 Extra Hire (reduction of \$58,560)
- 0145 Legal Expenses (reduction of \$254,411)

All of these reductions are due to a combination of zero-based budgeting and efforts to control costs.

Because elections run in four-year cycles, the most recent comparable year was 2016. Given that 2017 featured only the 4th Ward Special Election, the 2017 and 2018 budgets are not comparable.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Carrie M. Austin
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: James P. Allen
Communications Director, Chicago Board of Elections

CC: Deanne Millison
Mayor's Office of Legislative Counsel and Government Affairs

Date: November 2, 2017

Re: Response to Question at Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-02

This information is being provided in response to questions posed at our department's October 24, 2017 hearing on the proposed 2018 budget.

Ald. Reilly asked the Chicago Election Board to identify non-union employees receiving an increase in salary in the proposed 2018 budget.

All employees are non-union. Accordingly, most employees who remained in their positions, and those who earned promotions to replace retirees, will have received some level of step or grade increase.

The attached lists all of the Board's employees and indicates if they are receiving a salary increase.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

Last Name	First Name	M I	Pay	New	Change	Note
AGUILAR	LOUIS		51,732	53,028	1,296	
AJZYK	EDWARD	G	67,872	67,872	0	
ALEGRIA	CRISTINA	G	29,328	29,328	0	
ASPERA	SANDRA		74,064	81,792	7,728	Promotion
AUGUST	MARK		76,872	79,788	2,916	Promotion
BAKER JR	RALPH		28,608	29,328	720	
BAKER	ALAN		39,432	42,456	3,024	Merit/Step
BARA	SOPHIE	J	33,180	34,008	828	
BATTISTA	PATRICIA	A	64,596	64,596	0	
BATTLE	ANTHONY	C	0	27,912	27,912	Hourly to regular
BLAMEUSER	LOREL	D	104,916	104,916	0	
BOYD	RONALD		87,024	88,116	1,092	
BOYD	STEVIE		55,704	55,704	0	
BOYD	TIMOTHY		35,736	63,024	27,288	Promotion
BOYD-GREATHOUSE	KAREN	D	0	27,912	27,912	Hourly to regular
BROWN	RACHEL	J	28,608	29,328	720	
CAL	YULINDA	M	40,416	40,416	0	
CARLI	JAMES	P	67,872	74,064	6,192	Promotion
CARODINE	FRANKIE		36,624	37,536	912	
CARTER	KEITH		114,096	114,096	0	
CEREZO	ANGELA		27,912	29,328	1,416	
CHASE	ALAN		118,572	118,572	0	
CIESLICKI	STEVEN	M	73,092	74,988	1,896	
COLLINS	RHONDA	C	40,416	40,416	0	
CZECH	KATARZYNA		29,328	38,472	9,144	Promotion
CZECH	MICHAL		44,604	44,604	0	
DANDRIDGE	LACRETIA		99,816	100,812	996	
DAVIS	RICHARD	M	33,180	33,180	0	
DETRAYON	EDWARD		35,736	36,624	888	
DOMINECK	FRED		54,348	55,704	1,356	
DOMINGUEZ	LILIANA		37,536	46,860	9,324	Promotion
FARYJEWICZ	PAWEL	J	71,304	73,152	1,848	
FIGUEROA	MARIA		30,816	30,816	0	
FISHER	LASHELLE	L	27,912	34,860	6,948	Promotion
FLORES	MARIA	S	69,564	69,564	0	
GALUSZKA	MONIKA	K	49,236	50,472	1,236	
GARCIA	MARIO		28,608	28,608	0	
GARNER	SANDRA	Y	29,328	29,328	0	
GILMER	JERMAINE	C	38,472	40,416	1,944	

Last Name	First Name	M I	Pay	New	Change	Note
GOMEZ	THERESA		39,432	40,416	984	
GRIMM	LAURA	A	100,812	101,820	1,008	
HOGAN	BRYANT	R	27,228	28,608	1,380	
HOLIDAY	CHARLES		114,096	114,096	0	
HORTON	BETTY	R	45,720	48,036	2,316	
HOWARD	THERESA	A	79,788	79,788	0	
HURDE	CLINTON	W	85,944	99,816	13,872	Promotion
HURDE	DERRICK	L	81,792	82,812	1,020	
IRONS	VALERIE	L	82,812	83,844	1,032	
JOHNSON	HERMAN		30,060	30,060	0	
JONES	EDWIN		34,860	40,416	5,556	Merit/Step
JONES	YVONNE		70,488	71,364	876	
KELLUM	DEBRA	A	46,860	33,180	-13,680	
KELLUM	LINDA		58,524	59,988	1,464	
KOPAC	DARCY		55,704	57,096	1,392	
LAU	CHUN	J	53,028	53,028	0	
LEWICKI	AUDRA	A	108,600	108,600	0	
LIN	ANTHONY		27,228	28,608	1,380	
LIN	MATTHEW	H	108,600	108,600	0	
LOGAN	NICOLAS	L	28,608	33,180	4,572	Merit/Step
LOVE BROWN	MARTHA		64,596	66,216	1,620	
MARQUEZ	DIANE	F	54,348	55,704	1,356	
MARTIN	LEONA	T	28,608	29,328	720	
MEDINA	JAMES	R	48,036	50,472	2,436	
MINNIEFIELD	DONNA	L	42,456	43,512	1,056	
MOLINA	CASSANDRA		27,228	31,584	4,356	Merit/Step
MORENO	HECTOR		40,416	50,472	10,056	Promotion
MORENO	JAIME		34,860	34,860	0	
MORRIS	GENEVA		42,456	45,720	3,264	Merit/Step
MUNDY	TODD	A	67,872	67,872	0	
MUPO	MARY ANNE		64,596	64,596	0	
MYSLIWIEC	PAULINA		40,416	42,456	2,040	Promotion
ONTIVEROS	JESUS	N	29,328	30,060	732	
PARKER	NORA		45,720	45,720	0	
PARKER	TYANA	N	31,584	33,180	1,596	
PENALOSA	JEVON	L	0	44,604	44,604	Hourly to regular
PEREZ	ANGELO	M	43,512	43,512	0	
PEREZ	SUZANNE	K	96,876	97,848	972	
PESO	PETER	M	125,352	125,352	0	

Last Name	First Name	M I	Pay	New	Change	Note
PETERSON	OSCAR	T	49,236	49,236	0	
PICKENS	BRANDON	A	45,720	45,720	0	
POWELL	JOHN	C	38,472	50,472	12,000	Promotion
ROBINSON BASS	RENEE		51,732	54,348	2,616	Merit/Step
ROMERO	MARY	C	42,456	42,456	0	
ROSS	KATHY	J	70,488	71,364	876	
SENDZIK	THOMAS	N	64,596	64,596	0	
SHEEHY	PATRICIA A		64,596	71,304	6,708	Promotion
SIMPSON	SHAUN		34,860	38,472	3,612	
SMITH	DELILAH	L	42,456	50,472	8,016	Promotion
SPIRES	DEANNA	J	63,024	64,608	1,584	
STERLING III	ODEL		50,472	51,732	1,260	
TARVER	MISHONDA	D	28,608	30,060	1,452	
THURMAN	RICHARD	D	31,584	32,376	792	
TOLLINCHI	JUDITH		28,608	29,328	720	
TOMECEK	CHRISTOPHE	J	49,236	50,472	1,236	
TONEY	MICHAEL	R	30,816	31,584	768	
TORRES	ROSE	A	95,916	95,916	0	
TRAN	TIEN	K	94,932	95,916	984	
TRAN	TRANG	M	46,860	46,860	0	
TRAN	TRINH	T	50,472	51,732	1,260	
TRIPLETT	CAROL		31,584	36,624	5,040	
TURNER	CHRISTOPHE	R	38,472	45,720	7,248	
TURPIN	RENA		0	27,912	27,912	Hourly to regular
VEGA	DOLORES		54,348	54,348	0	
WETZEL-JOHNSON	SHELIA	A	40,416	46,860	6,444	Promotion
WILLIAMS	MIA	N	30,060	31,584	1,524	
WILLIAMS	RAMONA		67,872	69,564	1,692	
WRICE	LINDA	D	31,584	32,376	792	
ZABEL	SHERRY		28,608	28,608	0	



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From: Lance Gough
Board of Elections

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Mayor's Office of Legislative Counsel and Government Affairs

Date: November 2, 2017

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-04

This information is being provided in response to questions posed at our department's October 24, 2017 hearing on the proposed 2018 budget.

Ald. Villegas asked for a breakdown of the Board's \$4.5 million in contract costs this year with indications of MBE/WBE participation. The listing is provided on the following two pages.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

VENDOR	MB / WB	\$\$\$ PAID
3X DATA CORPORATION	WBE	40,512.08
A T & T LONG DISTANCE		356.75
A T & T SMART CARD SYSTEMS		25,931.32
ACCURATE OFFICE SUPPLY		149.00
ADP, INC.		6,658.70
AGNEW, JOAN T.	WBE	143,534.69
ANE DATA SOLUTIONS LLC		29,750.00
ARC IMAGING RESOURCES		770.00
AT & T 02		1,553.28
AT & T 09		370,699.61
AT&T CORP		6,561.69
ATLAS STATIONERS INC		836.54
ATLAS STATIONERS INC.		144.00
BD OF ELECTIONS COMMISSIONERS		731,281.50
BENTLEY SYSTEMS INC	MBE-AF	5,412.00
CAMBRIDGE SECURITY SEALS LLC		1,400.00
CANON SOLUTIONS AMERICA INC		3,458.04
CDW GOVERNMENT, LLC.		18,929.64
CHICAGO CHINA NEWS & DIGEST		50.00
CHICAGO CHINESE NEWS	MBE-AS	100.00
CHICAGO TRIBUNE 02		17,632.00
CHINA JOURNAL	MBE-AS	40.00
CHINESE AMERICAN NEWS	MBE-AS	45.00
COOK COUNTY		376,841.95
CPURX		10,654.19
CRAIN'S CHICAGO BUSINESS		83.20
DEAN N. FTIKAS		33,345.00
DOMINION VOTING SYSTEMS INC		4,750.00
DYKEMA GOSSETT ROOKS & PITTS		59,181.28
E S R I		5,000.00
ELECTION ADMINISTRATION FUND		54,682.48
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE IN		873,628.51
ENTERPRISE LEASING CO. OF CHICAGO		5,795.00
FRASER STAMP & SEAL CO		1,354.50
GARY RYCZYK		66,105.00
GUILLERMO O. PEREZ	MBE-H	38,725.00
HERALD NEWSPAPERS INC DBA THE HYDE PARK HERALD		3,808.61
HI INDIA-CHICAGO	MBE-AS	1,110.00
IDENTATRONICS INC		214.50
IMAGING SYSTEMS INC		10,040.00
INTERFUND-GENERAL SERVICES		86.82
INTERPARK		3,440.00
JAMES M. SCANLON & ASSOCIATES		125,492.00
JANE IGNACIO	WBE	11,863.25
JONG LEE	MBE-AS	146,675.00
JPA CONSULTING GROUP		100,000.00
KRONOS INC		12,597.46
KS STATEBANK		105,548.98
LAKE COUNTY PRESS, INC		10,416.00
LASKER LAW LLC		11,950.00
LEWIS PAPER PLACE		1,100.00
MAILFINANCE		26,301.83
MEDIA TRACKING INC D/B/A/ NEWSPAPERCLIPS.COM		680.00
MICROSOFT CORPORATION		28,800.00

VENDOR	MB / WB	\$\$\$ PAID
MIDPACK CORPORATION		1,359.20
MIDWAY INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT, INC.		428.57
MIDWEST GAP ENTERPRISE		1,000.00
MINUTEMAN PRESS		2,850.00
MSC INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CO		1,155.10
MURPHY, MICHAEL P		1,000.00
NESTLE WATERS NORTH AMERICA D/B/A READY REFRESH BY NESTLE		1,392.75
NEXT DAY TONER SUPPLIES INC.		6,328.63
PALMER PRINTING, INC.		11,083.00
PELEGAN INC.	WBE	1,071.00
PICKENS KANE BUSINESS SERVICES		15,332.17
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL		3,530.97
POSTMASTER 01		171,250.00
POSTMASTER/ COMMERCIAL ACCTS		1,135.00
R. R. DONNELLEY & SONS COMPANY		2,250.00
RCN		2,481.26
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION		43,010.18
RUNBECK ELECTION SERVICES		1,959.44
S O E SOFTWARE CORPORATION		23,040.00
SBC GLOBAL SERVICES, INC. D/B/A/ AT & T GLOBAL SERVICES INC		9,750.90
SIMPLEXGRINNELL LP		1,410.00
SING TAO DAILY	MBE-AS	394.80
SKYTECH ENTERPRISES, LTD		2,008.55
SMARTMATIC USA CORP		11,750.00
SPRINT		17,497.41
ST AUGUSTINE COL/PRES OFC		14,600.00
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE		5,433.67
STEPHEN T. BOULTON - BOULTON AND ASSOCIATES		21,395.00
SUN TIMES MEDIA LLC		9,189.60
SUN-TIMES MEDIA PRODUCTIONS LLC		342.40
TAXI AFFILIATION SERVICES LLC		356.65
THE CHINA PRESS WEEKLY	MBE-AS	25.00
THE ENVELOPE CONNECTION	WBE	5,790.40
THE EPOCH TIMES	MBE-AS	75.00
TRIBUNE MEDIA NET, INC.		3,324.00
TROPHYS ARE US		493.00
U S POSTAL SERVICE		1,190.00
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE		225.00
ULINE INC		1,289.95
VELOCITY TECH SOLUTIONS INC		417.66
VERIZON WIRELESS		394,067.55
WORLD JOURNAL	MBE-AS	105.00
XEROX CORPORATION 01		114,312.75
EXPENSES - NO 4th Ward Election Day -->		4,443,177.96

ELECTION JUDGES		47,556.14
FIELD INVESTIGATOR		8,790.00
ELECTION COORDINATORS		10,150.00
POLLING PLACES		2,800.00
ELECTION DAY WORKERS		2,100.00
CENTRAL JUDGES		6,300.00

EXPENSES - 4th Ward Election Day --> **77,696.14**

EXPENSES - ALL --> **4,520,874.10**



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To: The Honorable Carrie M. Austin
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From: Lance Gough
Board of Elections

CC: Deanne Millison
Mayor's Office of Legislative Counsel and Government Affairs

Date: November 2, 2017

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-05

This information is being provided in response to questions posed at our department's October 24, 2017 hearing on the proposed 2018 budget.

Ald. Osterman asked the Chicago Board of Elections to share information on state legislation that would be needed to authorize universal vote centers in Chicago.

We are pleased to provide an overview of the issues related to Vote Centers and the required changes in legislation to allow Vote Centers in the attached report by former General Counsel James M. Scanlon on the subsequent pages of this response.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

Vote Centers

Current Illinois law requires that each voter voting on Election Day to cast his or her ballot in his or her neighborhood precinct polling place.¹ Counties must create precincts containing, as near as may be practicable, only 500 registered voters, but in any case not more than 800 voters.² In cities with boards of election commissioners, the goal is 600 registered voters in cities under 500,000 inhabitants, but in no case more than 800 voters; however, in cities of over 500,00 inhabitants, the goal is 400 voters, but in no case may a precinct contain more than 600 voters.³

Vote centers are an alternative to traditional, neighborhood-based precincts. When a jurisdiction opts to use vote centers, voters may cast their ballots on Election Day at any vote center in the jurisdiction, regardless of their residential address.⁴ By 2015, vote centers were authorized and used on election day in 12 states.⁵ The State of California adopted vote centers in 2016.⁶

The use of vote centers is often coupled with the increased use of vote by mail. For example, the State of Colorado requires that mail ballots be sent to every registered voter for most elections. Voters are permitted to return their vote by mail ballots to a vote center or designated drop box, rather than by mail. A study of Colorado voters reported that nearly two-thirds of voters in the 2014 general election said they returned their ballots in person, rather than by mail, and almost 80% of those voters said it took them less than 10 minutes to get to a designated location.⁷

Benefits

Ease of voting

- Voters not limited to one polling place. Eliminates voter confusion about where to vote on Election Day as the voter will be able to vote at any vote center that is convenient, whether near their home. Voters likely to be engaged in other activities on Election Day will be accommodated by locating vote centers nearer their workplaces, schools, shopping areas or wherever they may be that day.⁸
- All ballot styles will be available at all vote centers.
- Vote centers must comply with all federal and state law requirements, including the requirement that it be accessible to voters with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
 - In older communities, finding precinct polling places that satisfy the population limitations in current Illinois law while being fully accessible to voters with disabilities has proven to be a significant challenge. Vote centers offer a solution to this problem.
- In election jurisdictions certified by the Director of the Census as being covered by Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, (or as may be required by State law) vote centers shall provide, and voters will be entitled to receive, ballots, election materials and assistance in the applicable minority language or languages.
- An early study of the use of vote centers in Colorado concluded that vote centers seem to have a positive and significant effect on individual electoral participation.⁹

- A study of voters who voted in person in 2014 elections in Colorado found that 96% of them were satisfied or very satisfied with the voting experience.¹⁰
- In a 2012 Community Forum conducted by the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, participants recommended universal vote centers, similar to those used for early voting, as a means of reducing restrictions on when and where voters may cast their ballot and one of the top reforms that should be pursued.¹¹

Cost savings

- In Colorado, costs decreased by an average of 40% in five election administration-related categories (printing, labor, rental, postage and miscellaneous).¹²
- One study of vote centers in Indiana concluded that they save money and showed substantial savings over traditional precincts.¹³
- This, of course, assumes that the number of precinct polling places will be reduced so that savings are commensurate with increased costs for staffing and operating vote centers.
- If fewer precinct polling places are utilized, the following costs may be reduced:
 - rent
 - cartage
 - printing (poll books),
 - equipment (number of voting devices reduced) and
 - labor (judges of election, polling place administrator and investigators' salaries)

Reduced need for provisional ballots

- Because voter registration records for all voters will be available at each vote center and all ballot styles will also be available, there should be fewer challenges to voters who appear at the wrong precinct polling place and voters will be able to obtain the proper ballot style. This should result in less need to issue provisional ballots. For example, in the city and county of Denver, the number of provisional ballots decreased from 6,000 in 2010 to only 179 in 2014.¹⁴
 - Requires: (1) electronic poll books or equivalent so that voter registration records for all voters are accessible to election judges; (2) "ballot-on-demand" capability or adequate storage facilities for paper ballots, unless all voting is conducted on touchscreen voting devices.

Improved site access, conditions, services

- Vote centers will be centrally located on main traffic arteries convenient for both public transportation and private parking.
- All sites will be accessible to disabled voters.
- Allows for easier and better oversight by election authority personnel
- Better, highly trained and supervised staff, leading to more efficient operations and improved service to voters.¹⁵ This should reduce the likelihood of errors, particularly in matters such as issuance of correct ballot styles, whether to issue a provisional ballot, Election Day Registration, operation of the electronic poll books, operation of the voting equipment, troubleshooting, conflict resolution, etc.

Challenges

Voter registration records

If voters are allowed to go to any vote center of their choice, requires access by election judges to voter registration records of ALL registered voters (electronic poll books or equivalent)

Forecasting demand

Voter turnout at vote centers can vary widely, due to a number of different circumstances. Therefore, each vote center must be equipped, manned and prepared to handle a potentially large crowd of voters at any given time and contingency plans must be developed to handle overflow crowds, if necessary.

Ballot styles

If voters are permitted to go to any vote center of their choice, every ballot style must be available at every vote center. Requires either that

- all voting be done on electronic voting devices that can be loaded with every voting style;
- sufficient quantities of all ballot style be printed and stored on-site (expensive and unwieldy); or
- a "ballot on demand" system be designed, procured and implemented.

Sites

Vote Center sites must be

- close to voting populations
- sufficiently large to accommodate larger numbers of voters, election judges, pollwatchers and voting equipment
- close to public transportation and parking
- physically accessible to voters with disabilities
- capable of handling heavy electrical needs
- capable of serving a reliable computer network and internet access (for electronic poll books and communicating post-election returns)
- available during long hours on election day
- sufficient in number and strategically located to fairly accommodate, in a non-discriminatory manner, voters from all parts of the city.

Finding such sites in large urban areas with dense populations and aging (and often non-ADA compliant) infrastructures can be challenging.

Equipment

Unless precinct polling places are eliminated in sufficient numbers, additional equipment must be purchased, including

- election supply carriers
- voting devices
- ballot boxes
- electronic poll books
- electrical and communication connections

Regardless of whether the number of precinct polling places is reduced, the following equipment must be purchased

- electronic poll books or equivalent system (store voter registration information for

- all voters in the election jurisdiction)
- ballot-on-demand printers (ballot printing for voters who do not wish to vote on touchscreen devices)

Cost

Possible increased cost to

- rent sufficiently large and ADA compliant space with adequate, nearby parking
- pay compensation of additional judges of election, polling place administrators and other election day workers
- pay for additional voting equipment
- purchase additional paper ballots and/or "ballot-on-demand" system if voting to be on paper in addition to touchscreen voting, and
- acquire electronic poll book equipment and software or equivalent system to make all voter registration records available in all vote centers.

Such costs can only be offset by significantly decreasing the number of precinct polling places to be opened and operated on Election Day.

Reduced convenience for some

If the number of neighborhood precinct polling places is reduced to offset the cost of voting centers, some voters will need to travel farther to find a location to vote. This may burden some voters who are elderly, disabled or without means of convenient public or private transportation. However, well-planned vote centers should be located on arterial routes making it easier to reach by public transportation. In addition, vote centers should be served with adequate parking. All vote centers must be completely accessible to persons with disabilities.

Voter education

An effective voter education program must be developed and implemented to inform voters:

- that they are no longer voting at their local polling place, if polling place eliminated
- the availability and location of new vote centers
- any changes in procedures and what to expect when they go to vote

Change in tradition

The civic experience of voting with neighbors at a local school, church, or other polling place is changed.

Election worker staffing and training

If an insufficient number of precinct polling places are eliminated, additional election judges, election day investigators and support staff must be recruited and hired.

All election day workers must be trained in new vote center procedures.

Implementation

Legislation

Current Illinois law places limits on the number of registered or actual voters that may reside in and comprise a "precinct."¹⁶ The election authority is obligated to appoint polling places in each precinct¹⁷ and no person shall be permitted to vote at any election except at the polling place for the precinct in which he or she resides (except for vote by mail voters under Article 19 of the

Election Code and early voters under Article 19A).¹⁸ Thus, legislation is required to authorize vote centers.

Budgeting

- The number of new vote centers and eliminated precinct polling places (if any) needs to be determined for budgeting purposes.
- Equipment, supply, labor and training and education costs will need to be determined.

Equipment

- As noted elsewhere, establishing vote centers would require, at a minimum, a system for checking the voter registration record of each voter in the election jurisdiction should such voter appear at a vote center to vote. Ideally, such system would be electronic (paper systems would require so much paper as to be cost prohibitive and unwieldy) and in real-time (so that up-to-date information regarding whether the voter may have already voted by vote by mail or during early voting would be available).
- In addition, if the option to allow a voter to vote on paper as opposed to voting on a touchscreen is to be given to voters as is it currently done in precinct polling places, a system for generating "ballot-on-demand" must be implemented. It would too costly and too unwieldy to store and provide in a vote center a paper ballot of every ballot style in a large jurisdiction.
- Unless a sufficient number of precinct polling places are eliminated and equipment in those locations are freed up, additional equipment must be purchased, including election supply carriers for transporting election equipment, touchscreen voting devices, optical ballot scanners (if paper ballots are allowed). Further, additional costs would be expended for rent, electrical connections, Internet connections, furniture, forms, cartage, etc.

Basic Legal Requirements

- Adoption of vote centers is optional in each election jurisdiction. Each election jurisdiction could choose to use vote centers to replace or to supplement precinct polling places. If adopted, election jurisdiction must meet certain minimum requirements.
- An election jurisdiction adopting vote centers would be required to draft and adopt a detailed plan through an open, public process, coordinated with the public and stakeholders.
- A voter may use any vote center in the election jurisdiction to vote on Election Day. The voter may register to vote, change his or her address if already registered to vote, and cast his or her ballot (or provisional ballot, as the case may be) in the same manner as he or she would be entitled to vote if voting in a precinct polling place.
- Vote centers must be open for voting on Election Day during the same number of hours as precinct polling places are now required to be open.
- There must be some by which election officials in each vote center can electronically access, in near as real time as possible, voter registration data for all registered voters in the election jurisdiction, along with information whether a voter has

- previously voted at such election, whether in person at another vote center or precinct polling place, by vote by mail ballot, or during early voting.
- There must be at least 1 vote center for every 10,000 registered voters.
 - Vote centers must be equitably distributed across the election jurisdiction.
 - When deciding locations for vote centers, election jurisdiction must consider proximity to
 - Population centers
 - Public transportation
 - Distance and time a voter must travel to a vote center
 - Free and accessible parking
 - Language minority communities
 - Voters with disabilities
 - Communities with historically low vote by mail usage
 - If an election jurisdiction is required under State law or under the federal Voting Rights Act to provide assistance and translated materials in a language other than English, such assistance and materials would be available at every vote center. Such election jurisdiction shall consult and collaborate with representatives of minority language communities to determine which vote centers should be staffed with election judges or officials who are fluent in the minority language.
 - Every vote center must be physically accessible to voters with disabilities and meet the requirements of State law and the Americans with Disabilities Act for polling places.
 - Vote centers must be equipped with voting units or systems that are accessible to individuals with disabilities and that provide the same opportunity for access and participation as is provided to voters who are not disabled, including the ability to vote privately and independently.
 - (Optional) Voters who have voted a vote by mail ballot must be allowed to drop off such ballot at any vote center in the election jurisdiction and the election authority must institute measures to secure and centrally count such ballots in the same manner as other vote by mail ballots.

Experiences

Phoenix Arizona <http://azbigmedia.com/ab/politics/phoenix-election-polling-places;>
<https://www.phoenix.gov/cityclerk/services/election-information/voting-at-the-polls/background-on-voting-centers>

Implemented: August 2011

26 Vote Centers replaced 128 precinct polling places

Open on Sunday, Monday and Election Day

Used in City elections only, reduced election costs by \$250,000

Indiana <http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/3574.htm>

Pilot program in 3 counties (2007-2010) approved statewide in 2011

http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/files/Full_Report.pdf

Uses electronic poll books

Discretionary with each county

Travis County Texas <https://www.supportthevoter.gov/files/2013/08/PCEA-Dana-Debeauvoir-Travis-County-Tx-County-Clerk-Vote-Centers.pdf>

Implemented: Fall 2011

Voters can go to any location, eliminating voter confusion about where to vote on election day

Reduced problems with less-than-ideal polling locations

Reduced number of provisional ballots

Larimer County CO <http://www.co.larimer.co.us/elections/votecenter/>

Implemented: 2003

First jurisdiction in U.S. to use vote centers

Created secure, real-time network that provided live connectivity between all Vote Centers through an encrypted, dedicated server

Replaced 143 precinct polling place with 22 Vote Centers

Denver CO http://www.denverpost.com/election/ci_4627496

Insufficient number of working voting devices resulted in a "total fiasco" in 2006. Vote centers were temporarily discontinued but later reinstated. The State of Colorado reinstated vote centers as part of its Voter Access and Modernized Elections Act of 2013.

Bismarck ND http://bismarcktribune.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_c93dc224-6c55-11e0-b704-001cc4c03286.html

Mixed voter reaction in small election. Further study to be done.

New Mexico <http://thevotingnews.com/legislation-allows-vote-centers-in-new-mexico-quay-county-sun/>; <https://polisci.unm.edu/common/documents/2014-bernalillo-county-nm-election-administration-report.pdf>

Legislation allows vote centers beginning in 2011

Ohio <http://www.progressohio.org/blog/2010/09/secretary-brunners-pilot-vote-center-concept-creates-significant-savings-in-special-election.html>

Pilot program for vote centers in special election cut election costs in half

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/01/18/idea-is-for-fewer-polling-places-but-you-can-use-any-of-them.html> <http://www.ohio.com/editorial/is-ohio-ready-to-think-outside-the-ballot-box-1.562247>

¹ 10 ILCS 5/3-1; 7-44; 7-45; 11-2; 17-9; 17-10; 18-5

² 10 ILCS 5/11-2.

³ 10 ILCS 5/11-3.

⁴ Such states included Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, Arkansas and Wyoming. National Conference of State Legislatures, <http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=23295>.

⁵ *Use of Vote Centers on the Rise Nationwide*, Pew Charitable Trusts, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/analysis/2015/01/15/use-of-vote-centers-on-the-rise-nationwide>.

⁶ <http://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/news-releases-and-advisories/2016-news-releases-and-advisories/governor-brown-signs-landmark-election-reform-bill/>

⁷ *Colorado Voting Reforms: Early Results*, The PEW Charitable Trusts, March 22, 2016, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2016/03/colorado-voting-reforms-early-results>.

⁸ "That voters are likely to be engaged in other activities on Election Day suggests that voting might be made more complementary with other activities, by locating polling places that are near to workplaces, schools, shopping areas, or major transportation routes so that they are more accessible throughout the day." *The effects of Election Day vote centers on voter experiences*, Robert M. Stein, Gregg Vonnahme, 2009, at p. 6, http://v-ads-web5.ads.caltech.edu/sites/default/files/Stein_Vonnahme_MWPSA09.pdf. See also, *Election Day Vote Centers, Voter Participation, and the Spatial Distribution of Voting*, Greg Vonnahme, Lonna Atkinson, Lisa Bryant, Christopher Mann, and Robert Stein, 2012, http://2012sppconference.blogs.rice.edu/files/2012/02/sppcPaper_vonnahmeEDVC.pdf.

⁹ "The effect of Election Day Vote Centers seems to have a positive and significant effect on the individuals' electoral participation." *Election Day Vote Centers and Voter Turnout*, Robert M. Stein, Greg Vonnahme, Rice University, 2006 <http://www.nonprofitvote.org/documents/2011/02/election-day-vote-centers-and-voter-turnout-stein-and-vonnahme.pdf>. However, another study found that, "overall, the existence of Vote Centers, in and of themselves, do not increase voter turnout." *Improving Election Administration with Vote Centers: Toward a National Model*, Raymond H. Scheele, Joe Losco, Gary Crawley, Sally Jo Vasicko, Bowen Center for Public Affairs, Ball State University, March 19, 2009. wpsa09VancouverPaper.pdf.

¹⁰ *Colorado Voting Reforms: Early Results*, PEW Charitable Trusts, March 22, 2016, at <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2016/03/colorado-voting-reforms-early-results>.

¹¹ <http://app.chicagoelections.com/documents/general/CBOE-VoterEngagementReport.pdf>.

¹² *Colorado Voting Reforms: Early Results*, PEW Charitable Trusts, March 22, 2016, at <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2016/03/colorado-voting-reforms-early-results>.

¹³ "[D]ata on the costs of holding elections clearly show that Vote Centers save money. Every jurisdiction, on a cost-per-vote basis, showed substantial savings over traditional precincts. The bulk of the savings are attributed to direct labor costs." *Improving Election Administration with Vote Centers: Toward a National Model*, Raymond H. Scheele, Joe Losco, Gary Crawley, Vasicko, Bowen Center for Public Affairs, Ball State University, March 19, 2009, <http://bowencenterforpublicaffairs.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Improving-Election-Administration-with-Vote-Centers.pdf>.

¹⁴ See, *Colorado Voting Reforms: Early Results*, PEW Charitable Trusts, March 22, 2016, at <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2016/03/colorado-voting-reforms-early-results>.

¹⁵ "Centralization may result in better equipped polling locations to efficiently process voters -- with more staff at each vote center, poll workers will be able to specialize in certain tasks such as checking in voters or assisting them with the ballots, which should lead to more efficient operations and improved service to voters." *The effects of Election Day vote centers on voter experiences*, Robert M. Stein and Greg Vonnahme, 2009 http://v-ads-web5.ads.caltech.edu/sites/default/files/Stein_Vonnahme_MWPSA09.pdf.

¹⁶ See notes 2 and 3.

¹⁷ 10 ILCS 5/11-2; 11-4.

¹⁸ 10 ILCS 5/11-2.



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Carrie M. Austin
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: Lance Gough
Board of Elections

CC: Deanne Millison
Mayor's Office of Legislative Counsel and Government Affairs

Date: November 2, 2017

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-06

This information is being provided in response to questions posed at our department's October 24, 2017 hearing on the proposed 2018 budget.

Ald. Ervin asked about universal voting centers being used here and in other jurisdictions.

We have used universal voting centers in Illinois during Early Voting, which allowed anyone in the City to use any of the 51 Early Voting sites, regardless of where they live. Our most used 'universal site' was the Loop Super Site in the former Walgreens at 15 W. Washington, which was opened for the first time during the 2016 General Election.

Additionally, across the United States:

- Three states allow jurisdictions to use vote centers ONLY on Election Day: Wyoming, South Dakota and Iowa.
- Twelve states and the District of Columbia allow jurisdictions to use vote centers ONLY during early voting: Nevada, Kansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Illinois, Ohio, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia.
- Eight states allow using vote centers during early voting and on Election Day: Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas, North Dakota, and Indiana. California has authorized the use of vote centers starting in 2018.

Colorado's and California's are the models we are watching most closely. In particular, Colorado's local jurisdictions are using Vote By Mail and Secure Drop Boxes for the vast majority of voters and their ballots – more than 92% of the ballots cast at the November 2016 election. Secure drop boxes are locked deposit boxes that are placed at sites like libraries, fire houses, and even at the vote centers, and are for those voters who want to use the Vote By Mail option, but who do not want to use the U.S. Postal Service to return their ballots. On Election Day, Vote Centers handled the 8% of the Colorado voters who, for various reasons, wanted to cast ballots in person on Election Day or who needed help because they lost, spoiled or damaged their original ballot or were not previously registered, or needed to update their registration address.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.